

2011  
Spring

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale  
National Marine Sanctuary  
Management Plan Review Newsletter

# Au O Ka 'Ike

Currents of Knowledge



HIHWNMS/NOAA Fisheries Permit #782-1438

*The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries recognizes the public as a key resource management partner and values their input in helping to shape and manage marine sanctuaries. The sanctuary is committed to keeping the public informed on its current management plan review process (MPR) and will provide additional opportunities to the public to learn about MPR. This newsletter is part of the sanctuary's commitment to keep the public informed on current events.*

## this issue

- Updating the Sanctuary's Management Plan **P.1**
- Assessing the 2002 Management Plan **P.2**
- Sanctuary Management Plan Review Timeline **P.2**
- Scoping Report Summarizes Public Comments **P.2**
- Advisory Council Forms Working Groups **P.3**
- Contact Info **P.4**

## Updating the Sanctuary's Management Plan

Nearly two decades have passed since the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (sanctuary) was created to protect humpback whales and their habitat in Hawai'i. The sanctuary has excelled in implementing programs focused on resource protection, research, education and outreach.

Hawai'i now faces new challenges and opportunities, and communities are increasingly concerned about emerging environmental issues that threaten our island resources. The sanctuary is reviewing its management plan and this process provides an opportunity for dialogue with communities and partners to determine how the sanctuary might evolve to address the marine resource protection needs of Hawai'i.

Community engagement in the management plan review process has

been facilitated through statewide constituent meetings, presentations, 8 public information meetings, 8 public information meetings, and a 90-day public comment period, including 10 public scoping meetings. More than 12,000 submissions were received. People from across the state provided input to help identify priority issues and potential roles for the sanctuary in future marine resource conservation efforts in Hawai'i.

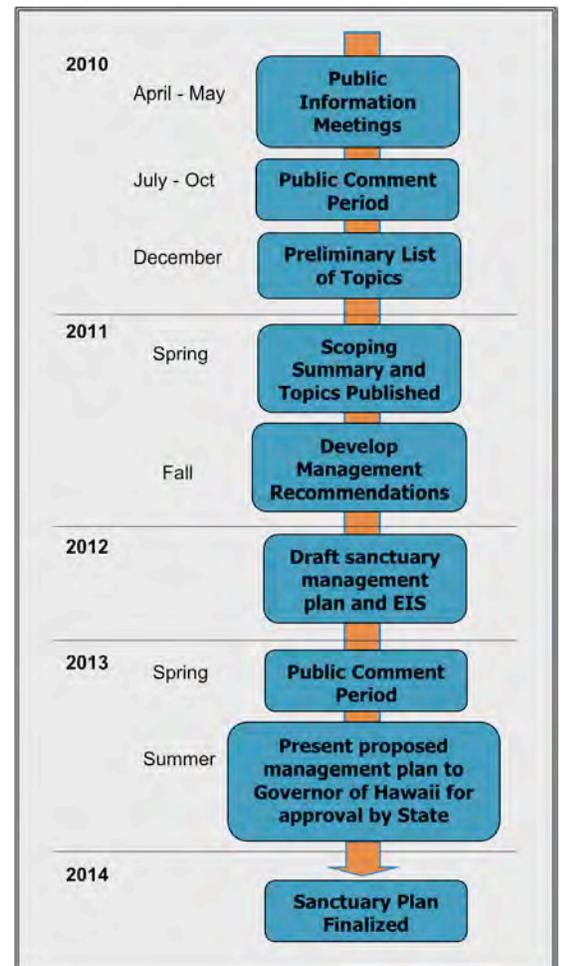
Working groups have been formed by the sanctuary's advisory council to address priority issues and recommend management strategies and actions for the draft management plan. These working groups are comprised of council members, local stakeholders and technical experts. The public will continue to have numerous opportunities to provide input as we move through this phase of the process.

## Assessing the 2002 Management Plan

Sanctuary staff began the management plan review process with an assessment of the current Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary management plan adopted in 2002. During this time, there was a high degree of implementation of activities in the Natural Resource Protection, Research and Monitoring, and Administrative Action Plans, which formally strengthened the sanctuary's management role in the Hawaiian Islands.

Reviewing the progress of the management plan performance indicators has shed light on opportunities where management effectiveness could be improved to reflect new challenges, new priorities and new opportunities.

## Sanctuary Management Plan Review Timeline



The following documents are available online:

- Assessment of Management Plan 2002-2010
- Public Scoping Report
- MPR Timeline

[http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/management/mpr\\_documents.html](http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/management/mpr_documents.html)

## Scoping Report Summarizes Public Comments

In 2010, the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary initiated a public scoping period to encourage open public dialogue during the management plan review process. During this period, the sanctuary received extensive input from many different constituent groups. Since then, a scoping report has been produced to summarize the comments that were received.

This input has been used to identify priority issues that will be examined in further detail through the working group process conducted by the sanctuary advisory council. As the working groups develop management recommendations to address the priority issues, they will consider the issue-specific comments that were submitted, as well as additional sources of information.



## Advisory Council Forms Working Groups

On December 15, 2010 the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (council) was presented with draft priority issues that were identified from the public comments during the sanctuary's management plan review scoping period.

During the public meeting, the council approved the list and created a series of working groups to focus on the priority issues. Working groups will identify existing projects and organizations that currently address each respective issue. They will then be able to distinguish gaps and what is needed to better address the issue around the state.

Working groups have been tasked with developing proposed strategies and activities to address the issue and suggest potential collaborations or partners. These recommended management actions will be presented to the entire council for approval at a council meeting. Recommendations will then be submitted to sanctuary management to be considered for inclusion in the draft management plan.

To find out more about the working groups and how you can participate, please visit our website at:

<http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>

or email us at:

[hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov](mailto:hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov).

### Working Groups & Respective Council Chairs (in alphabetical order)

#### **Climate Change**

Eric Kingma

#### **Ecosystem Protection - Species & Habitats**

Adam Pack

#### **Enforcement**

Rebecca Hommon

#### **Humpback Whale Protection**

Jim Coon

#### **Maritime Heritage**

Teri Leicher

#### **Native Hawaiian Culture**

Kehau Watson

#### **Ocean Literacy**

Liz Kumabe

#### **Offshore Development**

Phil Fernandez

#### **Water Quality**

Robin Newbold

## VISIT US ONLINE

**The sanctuary offers a variety of programs to communities throughout Hawai'i. Find out more about sanctuary events and how you can get involved by visiting us online at: <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>**

# Contact Us

Management Plan Review Coordinator

Email:  
hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov

1.888.55.WHALE (toll free)  
(808) 397-2651 ext. 257

Visit our website at:  
hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov



Madeline Kumsberg

## Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

6600 Kalaniana'ole Hwy.  
Suite 301  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
Tel: (808) 397-2651  
Fax: (808) 397-2650

